



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: June 6, 2005
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Indiana Announces New Regional Worker Training Strategy

Richmond, IN (June 6, 2005) – Governor Mitch Daniels today joined the Department of Workforce Development to announce a new \$23 million initiative designed to create new jobs and raise Hoosier income.

With the introduction of the Innovating Indiana Strategic Skills Initiative, Indiana becomes the second state to embark on a program that partners with local and regional businesses and economic development officials to identify key skill gaps and provide solutions aimed at increasing jobs and wages for Hoosiers.

“This worker training approach will provide Hoosiers with tools to find better jobs, earn higher wages and build local communities,” said Governor Daniels. “This unique approach engages Hoosiers in crafting realistic, regionally focused solutions to regional employment challenges.”

During the first six months of the program, \$3 million will be distributed to 11 regions for research and identification of current and predicted skills shortages and the associated root causes. Representatives from business, education, economic and workforce development will develop these plans, which will identify and quantify short-term and long-term skills shortages, and create and implement regional strategies.

Regions will then compete for the remaining \$20 million to create new jobs, reduce skill gaps, and increase Hoosier income. Regions will be held accountable for achievements in their two-year action plans.

Illinois has achieved significant success in regionalizing workforce strategies, developing regional workforce knowledge, and increasing jobs in industries such as life sciences, advanced manufacturing and information technology through this program. Likewise, Indiana’s program will equip regional economic officials



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with the data to help build a more advanced workforce through training and to attract new jobs.

Emily Stover DeRocco, Assistant Secretary for the Department of Labor, said this initiative puts Indiana in the forefront in addressing state economic needs.

“Linking workforce development to economic development is critical to enabling each regional economy to act quickly and independently to solve local problems and pursue new opportunities.”

Indiana Workforce Development will oversee the Strategic Skills Initiative with support from the Indiana Business Research Center and Workforce Associates, Inc.

“Historically, Indiana has struggled to effectively address skill shortages, and this has resulted in a loss of jobs and wages lower than the national average,” said Indiana Workforce Development Commissioner Ron Stiver. “Strategic Skills Initiative will enable us to anticipate shortages, identify their root causes, and implement realistic strategies for prevention of job loss, retention of regional talent and attraction of jobs paying competitive wages.”

SSI begins this month. The planning phase will be completed in February 2006. Implementation of approved action plans will begin in March 2006.

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